

# Miami Correctional Facility Recommended for ACA Re-accreditation

## Media Contact:

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"Staff at the Miami Correctional Facility have made great strides in improving the operations and program standards at the facility."

Commissioner J. David Donahue



From left to right: J. Patton Dellow, Chairman, Correctional Consultant from Lincoln, IL; Tim Sharpe, Correctional Consultant from Bluffton, SC; Walter E. Martin, Superintendent of Miami Correctional Facility; James Allen, Correctional Consultant from Rudyard, MI; and Ron Anderson, Northern Regional Director.

Indianapolis, Indiana - (February 28, 2007) - Commissioner J. David Donahue announced today that the Miami Correctional Facility passed their audit with a perfect 100 percent on the mandatory standards established by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility also scored 98.6 percent on non-mandatory standards.

Dedicated, knowledgeable and professional staff as well as an excellent and clean facility were just a few of the words used to describe the Miami Correctional Facility and its employees as Auditors with the American Correctional Association completed the Reaccreditation Audit.

"Staff at the Miami Correctional Facility have made great strides in improving the operations and program standards at the facility," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "I am proud of the fact that Indiana correctional staff and administrators continue to meet the national ACA standards by promoting quality practices and programs. It really takes a committed team of professionals to focus on a range of issues, including health, safety, staff training, quality of life for offenders, policies and practices, educational services, and virtually all aspects of facility management."

The audit team spent three days at the state correctional facility touring the grounds and going through policies, procedures and practices. J. Patton Dellow, Chairman of the audit team and Correctional Consultant from Lincoln, Illinois., commented "We are the eyes and ears of the Accreditation Committee. The audit team's responsibility is to make sure MCF is following the standards of the ACA in order to continue receiving its recognition as an accredited facility."

Miami Correctional Facility was originally accredited in 2004. To continue to receive this national recognition, the facility must keep up its standards and paperwork and go through this type of total facility audit every three years.

"Staff members I spoke to were very knowledgeable and very professional about their jobs and those around them," Allen continued. "The housing areas were exceptionally clean. I was amazed to see the floors as clean as they were."

Tim Sharpe, Correctional Consultant and audit team member from Bluffton, South Carolina, agreed with Allen. "You all do a great job here." Sharpe reviewed the medical standards and practices at the facility. "There is a lot of positive care taking place here. Staff were very respectful towards each other and in turn when talking to the inmates."

"We're in a profession where the only people who can really understand and appreciate the good job you do are your peers," Dellow said. "When you consider the facility size and number of missions, you are doing an excellent job."

"This was not one person's effort," Walter Martin, MCF Superintendent, said of the team effort it took to prepare for the audit and receive such high praise. "One of the compelling things about working in corrections, once we're in it, is the sense of community we derive from our shared association. We're in this together, and our victories and our losses are our victories and losses together. The effort it has taken to create and maintain a facility at a level of excellence worthy of recognition by the American Correctional Association requires the best of each and every one of us. Today's recognition is an acknowledgement of the excellence that goes on at Miami every day, and is the result of you being here and doing what you do."

"It is very exciting that facility staff are taking all measures to make sure that they meet or surpass a rigorous set of ACA standards," added Donahue. The award will be presented in April at the Correctional Accreditation Managers' Association (CAMA) Summer Conference.

### **About Miami Correctional Facility**

The facility is located in North Central Indiana in Miami County near Bunker Hill, Ind., on 206 acres of the former Grissom Air Force Base. The Level 2, all male, facility began operations in August of 1999. Miami is one of two facilities in the state of Indiana which houses all male sex offenders. Miami is the largest facility in the state of Indiana with a 3,188-bed capacity and employs more than 650 people from the area. Miami also operates a Level one - Minimum Security - facility which has 204 beds (This number is included in the 3,188). This unit opened in May 1999.

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### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.